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C O P Y for Office.

COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE  
SHIRE HALL  
GEOUCESTER

24th January 1927

Dear Miss Parish,

I do not think that the memorandum enclosed with your letter of the 21st really meets the occasion.

It almost suggests that sound teaching can be better given and Miss Mason's principles more thoroughly grasped by people of relatively imperfect education than by graduates of the highest standing. That is fundamentally unsound position which we cannot even appear to maintain in the face of the world: if we do we must be content to carry on our work in a small and obscure corner of it.

Surely the whole purpose of giving such a training as Mrs. Franklin and I have in mind is to create the right attitude of mind in the graduate, ~~whether~~ specialist or not. It is certain that we must recruit them in large numbers before long, and it would be a sorry thing if we had to admit at the outset that we cannot do it because "they are all specialists and treat their work from the point of view of the subject rather than from that of the children"; or that we cannot do it without sending them to the House of Education which has so far shewn great reluctance to admit them - and probably rightly on the ground that they will not - cannot - fit into the methods and discipline of the place; and which could not possibly admit the numbers whom we shall have to equip to use the methods.

The principle of the resolution must be adopted if we are to rise to what the occasion demands of us: the details of the scheme which shall give effect to it can be worked out later: but the admission of two or six or nine graduates to the House of Education will not provide what is required.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) H.W.Household

X.A

Miss Parish  
House of Education  
Ambleside,  
Westmorland

P.S. I am forwarding the memorandum to Mrs. Franklin with a copy of this letter.

17 Place 339  
Mrs. Franklin's reply to Mr. Household.

JANUARY 25, 1927

Dear Mr. Household,

Thank you for your letter. It was indeed a misfortune that you could not be at the Committee yesterday, and that your letter reached me only this morning.

I am rather sad about it: I fear that we have considered persons rather than the cause, and though we have passed only the principle of the whole matter, the second part of the resolution( of which Leo Whyte has sent you a copy) will make it more difficult for those of us who feel that a wider scope is needed to bring this about.

I believe that it ought to be possible for graduates to be trained under Ambleside-trained teachers, and under suitable conditions, in many places, on the lines, for example of the Froebel Union. They have a beautiful college at Southampton, with two hundred students and a three years course, still, people may sit for the Certificate of the Froebel Union having been trained in Froebel schools, under specified conditions,

in any part of the world, and if we foresee hundreds of P.G.E.U. teachers in the future, we must provide for this possibility.

Even if one term at Ambleside fitted in, and proved satisfactory, and gave them the spirit that we want, we have something much more all-embracing in view. Miss Parish's two graduates Miss Plumtre and Miss Butler, have their future life's work already planned, and are useless to us in this connection.

Miss Parish rather implied that she had one or two other vacancies at the moment, and Miss Kitching asked us point blank if we wanted to fill them. But even if, as Miss Parish says in her letter to you, these one or two vacancies "will fill the need for the moment", how can we accept them when as yet nothing has been formulated - the terms on which a diploma can be secured, what fees will have to be paid for training, and so on. We have yet to make known this Diploma to graduates, some of whom will have left for some years, and we cannot take steps to make it known until we know what we are going to offer them.

This much at any rate is clear, that "the need of the moment" is the need of hundreds of children for the teaching we have it in our power to give them, had we but the means! I fear that yesterday the attention seemed to be focussed on the students at Ambleside who might be hurt by this new Diploma and on the graduates who might like to do the work. It is difficult for people to realise the number of schools we might win if we dared approach them in view

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Mr.H.W.Household

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of our present limited man-power.

It seems to me too, that Miss Parish's remark "The difficulty about graduates is that they are all specialists and treat their work from the point of view of the subject rather than from that of the children" is a little sweeping. It is almost equivalent to saying that the better-grounded you are in a subject the less capable you are of stimulating other people to study and enjoy it! Nor are all graduates 'specialists' - for it is not only the honours graduates of the older universities that we have in mind. It would even seem reasonable to suppose that graduates, like non-graduates, who take up teaching, are capable of possessing "the enthusiasm of childhood"!

I have had two queries, one from a graduate of Oxford who has been teaching on the ordinary lines. She says to the secretary of the Loan Fund from which she obtained her loan for the university that unless she can get a different kind of teaching she feels she must look for some other profession. I long for some way of offering her ours. Another is from a 1st class honours in English Literature who has come into touch with our teaching and wants to continue with it on a rather more professional basis.

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Mr. H. W. Household

Jan. 25, 1927

I do hope you will manage to come to at least the first meeting of the Sub-Committee. I do not think there will be many meetings necessary if a scheme is brought up, /filled in, for the first Committee, and it is very important that you should be there. Naturally, fares will be paid. It is really, as you have said, one of the big steps forward, and you are needed to guide it. I enclose a telegraph form: if you cannot come on the 10th, could you give us a choice of dates.

Yours sincerely,

All communications to be addressed to  
"The Secretary,  
County Education Office,  
Shire Hall, Gloucester."

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TELEPHONE NO. 2910.



In reply please  
quote.

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COUNTY EDUCATION OFFICE,

SHIRE HALL,

GLoucester.

16th February, 1927.

Dear Miss Cripps,

I enclose a draft letter for consideration  
---- by the Executive Committee on the 22nd.

I sent Miss Whyte a copy of a letter which I wrote to Professor Wodehouse of Bristol University on the 12th, but I hear this morning that it has to follow her to America.

Somebody will have to consult the Calendars of the several Universities to see who is the person responsible for the training of teachers, and what is the title of the body for which he acts.

Yours sincerely,

*Hans Andersen*  
Secretary.

Miss Cripps,  
50 Porchester Terrace,  
Hyde Park,  
London, W.